

in consultation with the U.S. industry, to transmit to me a set of substantial adjustment assistance measures that would improve the competitiveness of the U.S. industry and facilitate efforts by the industry to adjust to import competition.

I further determine, pursuant to section 312(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, that imports of lamb meat produced in Canada and Mexico do not account for a substantial share of total imports of lamb meat and are not contributing importantly to the threat of serious injury. Therefore, pursuant to section 312(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, the safeguard measure will not apply to imports of lamb meat, whether fresh/chilled or frozen, that are the product of Canada or Mexico.

Similarly, the safeguard measure will not apply to imports of lamb meat that are the product of Israel, beneficiary countries under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act or the Andean Trade Preference Act, or other developing countries that have accounted for a minor share of lamb meat imports.

I have determined that the actions described above will facilitate efforts by the domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. These actions will provide the domestic industry with necessary temporary relief from increasing import competition as well as assistance from existing U.S. Government programs, while also assuring our trading partners continued access to the United States market. The over-quota tariff rates I have established will provide substantial certainty to the domestic lamb industry regarding import levels.

Pursuant to section 204 of the Trade Act, the USITC will monitor developments with respect to the domestic industry, including the progress and specific efforts made by workers and firms to make a positive adjustment to import competition. The USITC will provide to me and to the Congress a report on the results of its monitoring no later than the date that is mid-point of the period during which the action I have taken under section 203 of the Trade Act is in effect. In this regard, I instruct the USTR, in consultation

with the Secretary, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to transmit to the USITC no later than 30 days from today a list of benchmarks that the USTR recommends that the USITC use in connection with its monitoring and in preparing its report. These benchmarks are to be focused on industry efforts to adjust to import competition and on price trends for domestic and imported lamb meat.

The United States Trade Representative is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 9, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 12.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Imports of Lamb Meat

July 7, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am pleased to provide to the Congress documents called for by section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, pertaining to the safeguard action that I proclaimed today of imports of lamb meat.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Interview With Ron Brownstein of the Los Angeles Times

July 6, 1999

2000 Election

Mr. Brownstein. I enjoyed being out there today after spending so much time in the last few weeks with the Vice President and the Governor. And we have so much 2000 going on already, it seems a little odd, you know, in some ways. I mean, you've got—you and the Congress both have 16, 17, 18 months left, and you know, it's almost like we're in a fall—it just seems somehow premature to me, I don't know.